BEFORE

THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

DOCKET NO. 2017-305-E

IN RE:

Request of the South Carolina Office of)
Regulatory Staff for Rate Relief to
SCE&G Rates Pursuant to
S.C. Code Ann. § 58-27-920

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA EX REL. ALAN WILSON, ATTORNEY GENERAL, PETITION TO INTERVENE

The State of South Carolina ex rel. Alan Wilson, Attorney General, hereby petitions the Public Service Commission of South Carolina to intervene in the above captioned docket pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Reg. 103-825 (2012). In support of this petition, the Attorney General states as follows:

- 1. On September 26, 2017 the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff filed a Request for Rate Relief, asking the Commission to Order South Carolina Electric & Gas Company to immediately suspend the collection of rates being charged its customers under the Base Load Review Act ("BLRA"), and further, that if the BLRA is amended or repealed by the South Carolina Legislature or found to be unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, to Order SCE&G to cease the collection of all revised rates and refund to its customers all money collected under the revised rates provisions of the BLRA.
- 2. As the chief law officer of the State, the Attorney General may exercise such power and authority as public interests may require and may institute, conduct and maintain all such suits and proceedings as he deems necessary for the protection of public

rights. See, State ex rel. Condon v. Hodges, 349 S.C. 232, 239, 562 S.E.2d 623, 627 (2002).

- 3. The Attorney General is further charged with "when required by the Secretary of State, State Treasurer, Adjutant General, Comptroller General, or any other State officer or the Public Service Commission, consult and advise with them, respectively, on questions of law relating to their official business." S.C. Code Ann. §1-7-110 (Rev. 2005).
- 4. This case concerns the rights and monetary interests of over 700,000 South Carolina ratepayers of SCE&G. As the chief legal officer of South Carolina, it is the sworn duty of the Attorney General to seek to protect the rights of those citizens of the State.
- 5. On September 26, 2017 the Attorney General issued an Opinion in which the BLRA was found to be "constitutionally suspect" and not in the public interest.
- 6. If allowed to intervene, the Attorney General will participate to advocate on legal matters and issues in this proceeding affecting the public interest. The Attorney General has not otherwise formulated its position in this proceeding and intends to present his position in comments, briefs, arguments or testimony as specified by the Commission.
- 7. The State of South Carolina ex rel Alan Wilson, Attorney General, will be represented in this proceeding by Robert D. Cook, Solicitor General, and J. Emory Smith, Jr., Deputy Solicitor General, for which contact information is listed on the following page:

WHEREFORE, the State ex rel Alan Wilson, Attorney General, prays that he be allowed to intervene in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

ALAN WILSON Attorney General

ROBERT D. COOK Solicitor General S.C. Bar. No. 1373

J. EMORY SMITH, JR. Deputy Solicitor General Post Office Box 11549 Columbia, SC 29211 (803) 734-3680 S.C. Bar No. 5262

BY:

ATTORNEYS FOR THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA EX REL. ALAN WILSON, ATTORNEY GENERAL

September 29, 2017